Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SSM-03 EUR-12 /103 W

-----121840Z 023833 /40

R 121305Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECRETCAIRO 2613

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: GOE AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA

- 1. FAHMY'S OFFICE DIRECTOR AL-BAZ TOLD EMBOFF FEB.12 THAT ARAFAT HAD STOPPED ONLY BRIEFLY IN CAIRO ON HIS WAY TO CONAKRY, BUT WOULD RETURN FOR TALKS MONDAY. ASKED IF CONAKRY TRIP RELATED TO LARG-GOE MEDIATION EFFORTS, AL-BAZ CLAIMED ARAFAT HAD NOT CONFIDED PURPOSE OF VISIT.
- 2. ON NEGOTIATING PROCESS, AL-BAZ STATED BASIC
 PROBLEM NOW IS THAT ISRAELIS STILL REFUSE ACCEPT CONCEPT
 OF A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE. (WALDHEIM HAD JUST LEFT
 MFA WHEN THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE). EMBOFF ASKED
 HOW GOE HOPED TO GET ROUND THIS PROBLEM, RECALLING FAHMY'S
 PUBLIC SUGGESTION DURING HUSAYN VISIT TO ASWAN THAT
 THERE MIGHT BE PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS ON PALESTINIAN STATE
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AND THAT STATE'S LINKS WITH JORDAN. AL-BAZ REPEATED THAT STICKING POINT IS GOI REFUSAL CONTEMPLATE PALESTINIAN STATE OF ANY SHAPE OR FORM.

3. ASKED WHAT PLO IS DOING TO HELP ITSELF, AL-BAZ SAID GOE PLEASE THAT ARAFAT APPARENTLY STILL IN CONTROL, BUT WORRIED THAT PNC (NOW FIRM FOR MARCH 12) IS LIKELY

COME OUT WITH EVASIVE, MEANINGLESS RHETORIC AND NOTHING ELSE.

4. RECALLING ASAD'S TIME INTERVIEW, EMBOFF ASKED ON WHAT CONDITIONS GOE WOULD GO TO MEPC WITHOUT PLO. AL-BAZ GAVE DEFINITE ANSWER: IF PNC WERE CATEGORICALLY TO REJECT PARTICIPATION IN MEPC, GOE WOULD GO IMMEDIATELY TO GENEVA TO NEGOTIATE "THE WHOLE THING", IE END TO BELLIGERANCY. ASKED IF HE WAS SUGGESTING TWO SEPARATE PEACE AGREEMENTS WITH SARG AND GOE, AL-BAZ SAID THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT. SUCH TOTAL PLO REJECTION OF MEPC IS, HOWEVER, HIGHLY UNLIKELY, AL-BAZ ADDED.

5. GOE HAS SUGGESTED TO "SOME OF THE PALESTINIANS" THAT BEST BET MIGHT BE TO ISSUE STATEMENT WITH PREAMBULATORY PARAGRAPHS STRESSING PALESTINIANS ARE MORE THAN "REFUGEES" AND DESIRE LIVE IN PEACE IN THEIR HOMELAND, FOLLOWED BY SUBSTANTIVE SECTION AGREEING PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES AT WHICH PALESTINIAN NATIONAL HOME WOULD BE DISCUSSED. IN OTHER WORDS, MEPC WOULD GO FORWARD UNDER 242/338 WHILE PALESTINIANS WOULD OFFER ATTEND. ON IMPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN CONTEXT OF LATER UN RESOLUTIONS RECOGNIZING PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS," WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT SUCH SCENARIO NOT LIKELY TO BRING ISRAEL TO GENEVA, AL-BAZ ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS SO, BUT AVERRED THAT SUCH PALESTINIAN GESTURE SHOULD INCREASE PRESSURE CONSIDERABLY ON ISRAEL TO RETHINK ITS POSITION.

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6. AL-BAZ CONCLUDED THAT IT WILL BE
"VERY DIFFICULT" FOR EGYPT TO GO TO MEPC WITHOUT PALESTINIANS
IF PNC ENDS WITH A RESOLUTION OFFERING CONDITIONAL PARTICIPATION;
IE PNC STATEMENT WHICH OFFERS TO PARTICIPATE IF, FOR EXAMPLE,
MEPC IS NOT HELD IN CONTEXT 242/338.
EILTS

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